

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1145

The Prouty farm is a large agricultural complex located in Calvert County, at the end of Pott's Point Road. Access is private. There are a total of five tobacco barns on the property. Barn E is on the east side of the farm road, that runs past its west facade. It is oriented on a north-south axis. Barn E, according to the owner, was built in the 1930s. It is a curious gambrel roofed structure with a shed on its west end that attaches to the steep gambrel roof. The barn serves the purpose of storing tobacco, livestock, and hay. Tobacco was hung only in the west shed. The barn itself housed livestock, and its upper story is a hay loft. The barn was designed with these varied purposes in mind, and, as such, is unusual for a tobacco barn. The barn itself measures forty by twenty-two feet and has an eighteen foot wide shed built on to its west facade. All of the materials are circular sawn and toe-nailed with wire nails.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-1145

Magi No.

DOE ☐yes ☐no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Prouty Barn E

2. Location

street & number Pott's Point Rd. ☐ not for publicationcity, town Huntingtown ☒ Cox vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John Prouty

street & number Pott's Point Rd. telephone no.: 535-0977

city, town Huntingtown state and zip code MD 20639

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1145

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No.

CT-1145

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attachment.

Survey No. CT-1145

PS-2746

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1145

The Prouty farm is a large agricultural complex located in Calvert County at the end of Pott's point Road. There are a total of five tobacco barns on the property. One is early, possibly of eighteenth-century date, and the others all date to the twentieth century. Prouty barn E is built on the location where a tobacco barn that was blown down by a storm previously stood. Prouty barns A and B are located nearby, and upon the same farm road as barn E. Barn E is on the east side of the farm road, that runs past its west facade. It is oriented on a north-south axis. Barn E, according to the owner, was built in the 1930s. It is a curious gambrel roofed structure with a shed on its west end that attaches to the steep gambrel roof. It serves the purpose of storing tobacco, livestock, and hay. The barn was designed with these varied purposes in mind, and, as such, is unusual for a tobacco barn. The barn itself measures forty by twenty-two feet and has an eighteen foot wide shed built on to its west facade. All of the materials are circular sawn and toe-nailed with wire nails.

The forty foot length of the barn is divided into five eight foot bays. The lower level is divided into several rooms. There are stalls in the northwest corner, the north east has a concrete pad, presumably for some livestock activity. There is an animal feed area in the south, that has electricity hooked up to it. No tobacco was cured in this lower level, rather, it served for livestock and equipment storage. Doors lead into this lower level from the west shed, the south gable end, and the east facade. There is a ladder in the lower level that ascends to the hay loft above. The barn has a continuous foundation eighteen inches high, on which a heavy timber rests, and the siding covers six to twelve inches of the masonry foundation. Plain vertical wall siding with some hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior. All of the timbers are circular sawn and toe-nailed with wire nails. Rafters are on four foot centers. Unlike most tobacco barns, they do not rest on a false plate. The roof is of corrugated metal, but there are closely spaced planks underneath the metal. It is possible that the roof was originally covered with boards and tar paper. There are windbraces on opposing diagonals in the northwest and southeast corners, and two collars. The tier poles are circular sawn, and separated by forty-four inches vertical distance. There are no poles down the center.

The hay loft covers the entire upper story above the barn. There is a bin in this upper story that was designed to ease hay baling. There are louvered doors in the gable ends of the barn that allow light to enter the hay loft area. There are six by eight foot doors on tracks to access the upper level in the south end; and a top-hinged four by eight foot door to access the upper level on the north end.

The eighteen foot wide shed on the west side was probably an addition. The rafters of the shed join with the gambrel roof of the barn at the top collar. Beneath the junction of the shed

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1145 (CONT.)

rafters with the barn rafters, there is evidence of an early roof. However, the west wall of the shed shows no evidence of ever having been sided, therefore, it is possible that this shed is original. Eighteen inch high poured

concrete piers support the shed at ten foot intervals. The primary purpose of this shed was to hang tobacco. The shed on the west has four sets of double doors across its entire forty foot length, to permit storage, presently of farm equipment.

There is a low flat, eight by ten foot shed built on to the barn's southeast corner. It has a corrugated metal roof, a poured concrete floor, and is divided into two separate small rooms.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1145

This barn is architecturally significant because it is one of the few barns recorded by this survey that was designed for multiple purposes, including hanging tobacco. Most tobacco barns are designed from the outset with tobacco curing as their sole purpose. This barn, however, was designed as a combined hay loft, livestock barn, and tobacco curing barn. As such, many elements in its design are unusual for tobacco barns. The barn is also architecturally significant because it is part of a well-preserved complex of tobacco barns, all of which have known dates.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historical Period theme(s): ca. 1930; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert
Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1930-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

The west shed may have been added at a later date, although this cannot be determined for certain. The east shed is also probably an addition. The corrugated metal roof replaces an original board and tar paper roof.

#2118, 5/30/90, John Prouty Owner. Private Ownership, occupied, Joseph Showalter Recorder. Pleasant cool weather. Oriented on north-south axis. Original site, altered, good condition.

Barn has poured concrete supports. Continuous foundation eighteen inches high on which heavy timber rests, and siding covering six to twelve inches of masonry foundation. The barn has a gambrel roof over a two story structure, later altered to add a shed sixteen feet wide on the west side. Tobacco was hung only in the west shed. The ground level of the main barn was used for livestock; upper used for forage storage. High louvers on both gables. Six by eight foot doors on tracks to access upper level in south end; top-hinged four by eight foot door to access upper level on north. Three small random doors on lower level south end. Low flat eight by ten foot shed on east, three openings (two with doors) on lower east sides. Shed on west has four sets double doors embracing until forty feet to permit storage, presently of farm equipment. Plain vertical wall siding with some hinged ventilation doors. All timbers circular sawn and toe-nailed with wire nails. Rafters are on four foot centers, do not rest on a false plate. Roof is corrugated metal, but nailers are closely spaced planks -- possible originally board and tar paper. Plate is circular sawn six by six, joints with posts toe-nailed. There are windbraces on opposing diagonals in the northwest and southeast corners and two collars. Tier poles are circular sawn, and separated by forty-four inches vertical distance. No poles down center. Bin down center of loft two feet wide two and one half feet high -- used to bale hay.

Shed has metal roof. Poured concrete piers for support eighteen inches high at ten foot intervals. Curious - original? roof line intact under shed, sheathing nailed to interior of rafters -- no nails or nail holes evident on exterior face. Shed roof ties in to barn at top collar' first break in gambrel roof line.

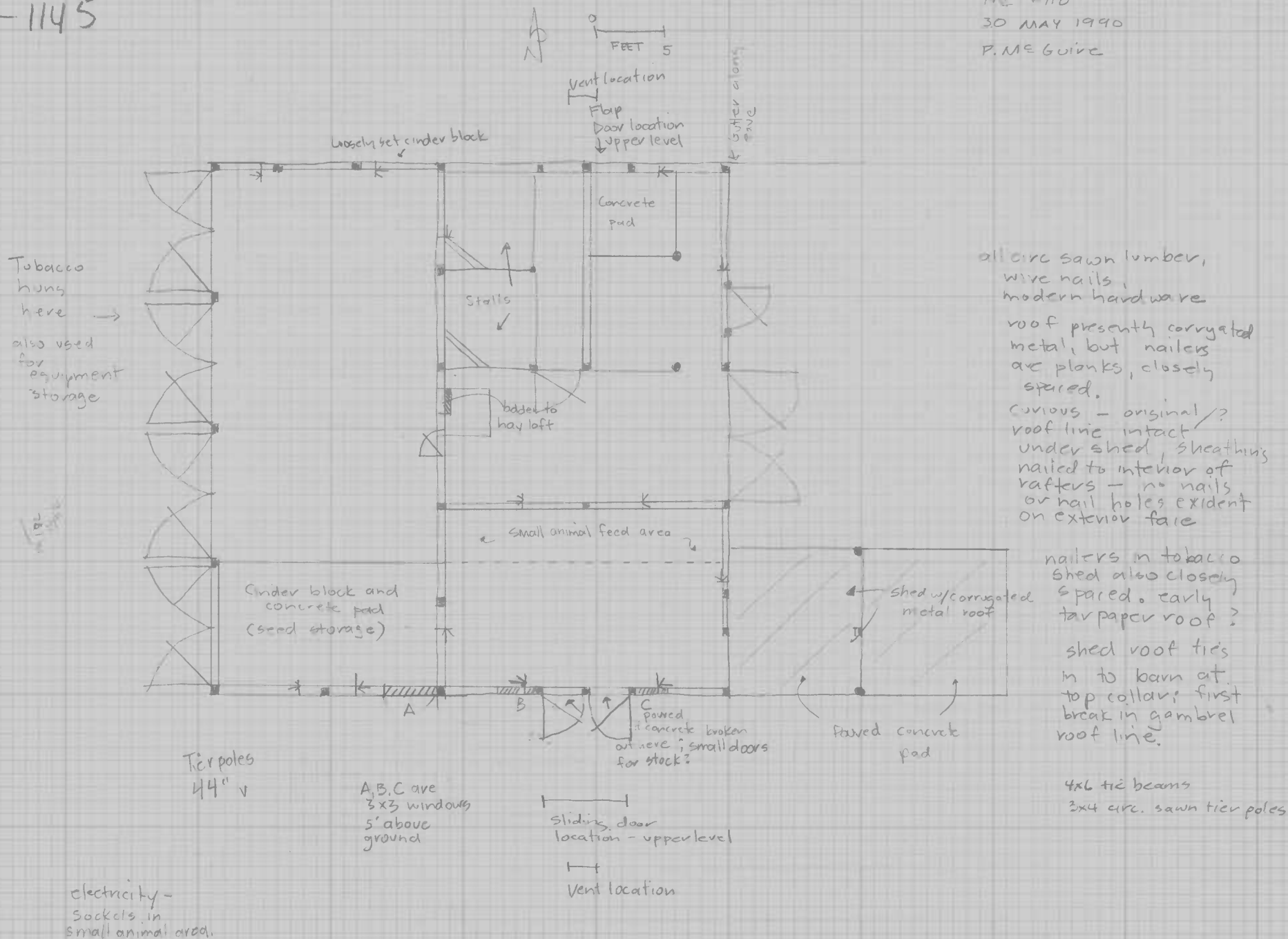
CT-1145

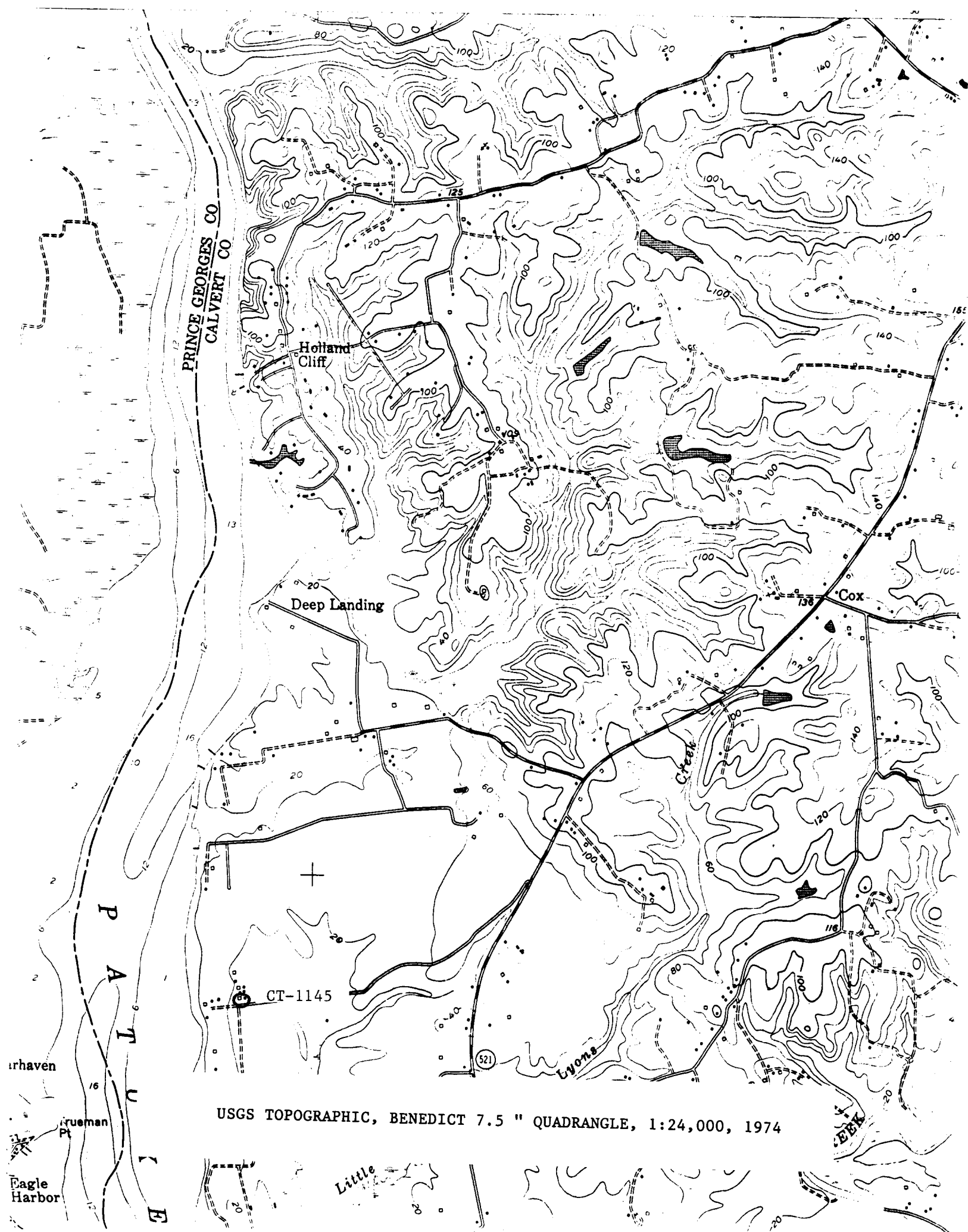
PROUTY BARN

Ne 2118

30 MAY 1990

P. Mc Guire







OT 1105

PROBUTY ME

POTT'S POINT ROAD BUNTING TOWN

PATRICIA MCGUIRE

EAST

JUNE 1990